In the claims:

1. (currently amended): An aqueous ink composition for the ink-jet printing method, which ink- comprises

a) metallic or non-metallic, inorganic platelet-shaped particles having an average particle diameter of at least 2 μm, wherein the platelet-shaped particles are pigments that comprise,

(a1) a core consisting of a substantially transparent or metallically reflecting material and

(a2) at least one coating substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides (SiO_x layer) wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to < 0.95,

or

wherein the platelet-shaped particles are aluminium flakes coated with SiO_z wherein $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$,

b) a dispersant (dispersing agent) and

c) a binder.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) An aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the platelet-shaped particles are aluminium flakes coated with SiO_z wherein $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$.

4. (original) An aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the platelet-shaped particles are pigments that comprise

(a1) a core consisting of a substantially transparent or metallically reflecting material and

(a2) at least one coating substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides (SiO_x layer) wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to < 0.95.

5. (previously presented) An aqueous ink composition according to claim 4, wherein the pigment has the following layer structure:

(a3) SiO_z,

(a2) at least one coating substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to < 0.95,

(a1) a core consisting of a substantially transparent or metallically reflecting material,

(a2) at least one coating substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to < 0.95,

(a3) SiO_z,

or

(a4) a coating consisting of any desired solid material the composition of which is different from that of the coating (a3),

(a3) SiO_z,

(a2) at least one coating substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to < 0.95,

(a1) a core consisting of a substantially transparent or metallically reflecting material,

(a2) at least one coating substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to < 0.95,

(a3) SiO_z,

(a4) a coating consisting of any desired solid material the composition of which is different from that of the coating (a3).

6. (previously presented) An aqueous ink composition according to claim 5, wherein the pigment has the following layer structure: $SiO_x/SiO_z/SiO_x$, $SiO_z/SiO_x/SiO_z/SiO_x/SiO_z$, $SiO_x/Al/SiO_x$, $SiO_z/SiO_x/Al/SiO_x/SiO_z$, $TiO_2/SiO_z/SiO_x/SiO_z/SiO_x/SiO_z/TiO_2$, or $TiO_2/SiO_z/SiO_x/Al/SiO_x/SiO_z/TiO_2$, wherein $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$ and $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$.

7. (previously presented) An aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the platelet-shaped particles are gloss pigments comprising

(a) a core substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides (SiO_x layer) wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to < 0.95,

(b) optionally, an SiO_z layer, wherein $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$,

(c) optionally, a layer D^M having a transparency of from 50 to 100% and a complex refractive index $\tilde{N} = n + ik$ satisfying the condition $\sqrt{n^2 + k^2} \geq 1.5$ at the wavelength of maximum visible reflection of the particles, which is substantially composed of carbon, an organic compound, inorganic or organic pigments or colorants, a metal, metal oxides or sulfides, a dielectric or a mixture thereof, and which is either on top of the core or, if an SiO_z layer is present, is separated from the core by the SiO_z layer.

8. (previously presented) An aqueous ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the gloss pigment has the following layer structure:

(b2) SiO_z layer,

(b1) SiO_x core wherein $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$,

(b2) SiO_z layer, or

(b3) layer D^M,

(b2) SiO_z layer,

(b1) SiO_x core wherein $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$,

(b2) SiO_z layer,

(b3) layer D^M.

9. (previously presented) An aqueous ink composition according to claim 8, wherein the materials for the layer D^M are selected from metals selected from the group consisting of Ag, Al, Au, Cu, Co, Cr, Fe, Ge, Mo, Nb, Ni, Si, Ti, V and alloys thereof, inorganic pigments, organic pigments, other colorants, graphite and metal oxides or sulfides selected from the group consisting of MoS_2, TiO_2, ZrO_2, SiO, SnO_2, GeO_2, ZnO, Al_2O_3, V_2O_5, Fe_2O_3, Cr_2O_3, $PbTiO_3$ and CuO.

10. (previously presented) A process for printing a planar substrate according to the ink-jet printing method, which comprises printing the substrate with an aqueous ink composition according to claim 1.

11-15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) An aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the platelet-shaped particles are aluminium flakes coated with SiO_z wherein $1.1 \leq z \leq 2.0$.

17. (previously presented) An aqueous ink composition according to claim 5, wherein the pigment has the following layer structure: especially $SiO_2/SiO_x/SiO_z/SiO_x/SiO_2$, especially $SiO_2/SiO_x/Al/SiO_x/SiO_2$, especially $TiO_2/SiO_2/SiO_x/SiO_z/SiO_x/SiO_2/TiO_2$ or especially $TiO_2/SiO_2/SiO_x/Al/SiO_x/SiO_2/TiO_2$, wherein $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$ and $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$.

18. (previously presented) An aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the platelet-shaped particles are gloss pigments comprising

(a) a core substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides (SiO_x layer) wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to < 0.95 and

(b) an SiO_z layer, wherein, especially $1.1 \leq y \leq 2.0$.

19. (previously presented) An aqueous ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the gloss pigment has the following layer structure:

(b2) SiO_2 layer,

(b1) SiO_x core wherein $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$,

(b2) SiO_2 layer,

or

(b3) layer D^M composed of TiO_2,

(b2) SiO_2 layer,

(b1) SiO_x core wherein $0.03 \leq x < 0.95$,

(b2) SiO_2 layer,

(b3) layer D^M composed of TiO_2.

20. (cancelled)